

## Hydrology Lab (formerly the Hydrology Research Lab <sup>1</sup>)

**Eric Anderson:** I began working for the Weather Bureau in July of 1964. It was actually still the Weather Bureau when I started. I first reported to the old Weather Bureau headquarters at 24<sup>th</sup> and M in Washington. Within a few weeks after I began my employment we became the National Weather Service as part of the new Environmental Sciences and Services Administration (ESSA). At that time the name of the hydrology headquarters group was changed to the Office of Hydrology with one of the major components being the Hydrologic Research and Development Laboratory. I was one of the inaugural members of the Research Branch along with Don Baker and Eleanor Carlin (met tech). The Office of Hydrology at that time was located away from the rest of the Weather Service out on MacArthur Blvd. The building just housed the Office of Hydrology and the Career Development group (only 4-5 people in that group – important because my future wife began work with that group upon returning from the Peace Corps). Bud Hiatt was the director of Hydrology, Max Kohler was the head of the R&D Lab, and Tor Nordenson was the head of the Development Branch (Max acted as the head of the Research Branch to begin with – within a couple of years Gene Peck was brought in from the Salt Lake City facility to take that position). After beginning employment I only spent a couple weeks in Washington before being sent on an orientation tour to 5 different RFCs (Cincinnati, Kansas City, Fort Worth, Salt Lake City, and Portland). I spent a week at each RFC. This gave me a unique opportunity to meet many river center personnel and get firsthand knowledge of RFC procedures and how the RFCs functioned right from the beginning.

**Dr. Danny L. Fread** worked a plethora of jobs to pay his way through his Liberal Arts and Engineering degrees from Carthage College and the University of Missouri-Rolla. After working as an Engineer for Texaco, Dr. Fread returned to the University of Missouri-Rolla with his wife and daughter to continue his education. He received his PhD in Civil Engineering in 1971. Upon receiving his degree, Dr. Fread joined the Office of Hydrology at the National Weather Service in Silver Spring Maryland as a research hydrologist. Inspired by the tragedy of the failure of the Teton Dam, Dr. Fread's research focused on developing computer models that more accurately forecasted the flows of flooding rivers and dam failures. Dr. Fread's computer models have been used



Dam Break Seminar 10/15-17/1980  
held in Minneapolis, MN  
From left to right: C. Edward Bowers  
(University of MN), Dr. Danny Fread,  
and Dean Braatz (HIC NCRFC)

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<sup>1</sup> The Hydrologic Research Laboratory was renamed Hydrology Laboratory and hydro services was moved from OH to the newly created Office of Climate, Weather and Water Services and OH was renamed the Office of Hydrologic Development in 2000 as part of the reorganization of national headquarters

around the globe. Dr. Fread received national awards for his work including the Department of Commerce Gold Medal, the American Society of Civil Engineers Huber Research Prize and the J.C. Stevens Award, the Federal Laboratory Consortium Award for Technology Transfer, the Association of State Dam Safety Officials National Award of Merit, and the American Meteorological Society Award of Fellow. He ended his career as Director of the Office of Hydrology at the National Weather Service retiring in 2000.



### **1969 Regional Hydrologist's Meeting**

Seated, from left to right: John MaCallister (SR), Bill Raetz (WR), Dr. George Cressman, NWS Director, Max A. Kohler, (Chief, OH)

Standing, left to right: Glenn Audsley (AR), Elroy Balke (CR), John Thomas (ER), Dave Smith (PR)



### **1981 Regional Hydrologist's Meeting**

Sitting, left to right: Al Kachic (ER), Clarence Vicroy (SR), Robert A. Clark (Chief, OH), Tom Bowers (WR)

Standing, left to right: Jack Bowman (HIC-TURFC), Mike Hudlow (OH), Glen Audsley (CR), Don Close (HIC-OHRFC), John Schaaake (OH), Jerry Nibler (AR), Earl Laws (MIC-WSFO Washington D.C.), Lee W. Larson (Deputy RH CR)



### **1996 HIC Meeting**

Seated, left to right: Rob Hartman CNRFC, Dave Morris WGRFC, Billy Olsen ABRFC, Dean Braatz NCRFC, Dave Helm SERFC

Standing, left to right: Lee Larson OH/HRL, Tom Baumgardner MARFC, Danny Fread OH, Harold Opitz NWRFC, Larry Black MBRFC, Dave Brandon CBRFC, Jerry Nibler AKRFC, Craig Hunter OHRFC, Dave Reed LMRFC, and Ron Martin NERFC